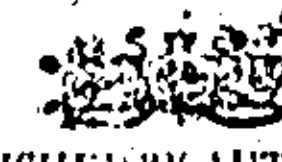

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Hongkong, 16th January, 1888.

Printed and Published by ROBERT FRASER & CO.,
at the "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" Press, No. 11, Queen's Road, Hongkong.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1888.

represented as his one of the points to which we would direct the attention of Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX. As Mr. FOSTER openly defied the law by contemptuously ignoring the summons, why did the Magistrate not at once issue a warrant for his arrest? Had a Chinese shopkeeper done the same thing as Mr. FOSTER he would have been ignominiously dragged before his Worship *sans cérémonie*. Now, we venture to contend that in the eye of the law a Chinese shopkeeper or coolie has equal rights—neither more nor less—with Mr. FOSTER, and we assert that if the magistrate had properly performed his duty, Mr. FOSTER would have been fined or sent to gaol for contempt of court. And it certainly appears that his conduct in this matter made him a fit subject to be made an example of. However, the case was duly threshed out before the magistrate, and there cannot be the least doubt on the evidence that Mr. FOSTER had neglected to comply with the Government sanitary regulations, and in addition to proving an nuisance to his neighbours and

THE *Avenir du Tonkin* assures its readers that the Tonquin will be largely represented at the French Exhibition of 1889.

Why should English free-traders take such an interest in converting public opinion here to their views if they do not expect to make pounds and shillings out of the hoped-for change in the American system? The originally are not working for American interests. Such disinterestedness will never be known to history. If Americans will stop to think, they must realise that our interests are something quite distinct from those of Great Britain, whose commercial policy has always been to make the rest of the world dependent upon its producers and merchants. The free-trade tendencies of the Democratic party and the policy of the present Administration have diminished, and continue to diminish, encouragement to British free traders to persist in their purpose of breaking down our system of industrial protection.

An intricate case of international procedure has recently been decided by the Swiss Federal Council to the effect that the laws as they now stand will add to the difficulties of the English and American doctors practicing in Switzerland that vicinity. A short time since a petition was presented to this Council that English doctors who need a Federal diploma in order to become legal medical residents might be allowed to undergo the necessary examination in the English language, instead of in German or French. The Bundesrath rejects the petition. It answers that the concession must be refused, first, in regard to Swiss doctors, because it would be an act of favor to English physicians which Swiss physicians do not enjoy in England; secondly, in regard to the doctors of other nations it would be an act of favor to English physicians which cannot practically be granted, as it depends upon a total change of the laws which must be enacted. As a result, the petitioners must be warned that the Council would in time raise insuperable difficulties.

We read that for the first time for a number of years the Sigiri Rock in Ceylon has been scaled by a European, the feat on this occasion being performed by General Lennox, who commands the island. It is said, indeed, that only one European, Mr. Cresney, ever succeeded in reaching the summit. The rock is cylindrical in shape, and the bulging sides render the ascent very difficult and dangerous. There are galleries all round, a groove about 4 in. deep being cut in the solid rock. This rises spirally, and in it are fixed the foundation bricks, which support a platform about 6 ft. broad, with a chunam-coated wall about 9 ft. high. The whole structure follows the curves and contours of the solid rock, and is cunningly constructed so as to make the most of any natural support the formation can afford. In some places the gallery has fallen completely away, but it still exhibits flights of fine marble steps. High up on the rock are several figures of Buddha; but it is a mystery how the artist got there, or how, being there, he was able to carry on his work. The fortifications consist of platforms, one above the other, supported by massive retaining walls, each commanding the other. Owing to the falling away of the gallery, the ascent in parts had to be made up a perpendicular face of the cliff, and General Lennox and four natives were left to do the latter part of the ascent alone. The top they found to be a plateau about an acre in extent, in which were two square tanks with sides 30 yards and 15 ft. respectively in length, cut of the solid rock. A palace is believed to have existed on the summit at one time, although time, weather, and the jungle have obliterated all traces of it. During the descent the first corner had to guide the foot of the next into a safe fissure, but all reached the bottom safely after two and a half hours. It is said that the amount of work expended on the galleries is incalculable, and the wonders of the rock are described as the finest ever seen by modern times.

THE BENJAMIN CASE

His lordship remarked that he had no desire to disarrange the plan of argument and proceeded to sayings he had laid down for himself to pursue; and that he would be well for defendant to confine them to the argument, for the purpose of shortening the proceedings, to the main questions set out by Mr. Wilkinson.

Mr. Wainwright—Yes, my lord, but there are two points I would like to take first. The other side has laboured to establish *champerty*, on technical grounds, as well as the invalidity of the agreement, on the basis of undue influence. It seems to me that, to take advantage of technical matters, as the case is one touching my personal honour, although all the charges made against me by my learned friend are perhaps to be taken in a Pickwickian sense, as I understand them.

Mr. Wilkinson—I deny that I made any charges.

Mr. Wainwright—Yes, charges of fraud and undue influence, and the imputation that I robbed Mr. Benjamit of money due to him; that I took an unfair advantage over him, and exercised undue influence; and that I am now defrauding his widow after he is dead. Those are the charges I make, because they are charges that will be held against me if I can't show that I have acted honestly. To state an act will credit them with facts in the light of the evidence, and on either side there has been no evidence on influences and imputations without a shadow of evidence to bear them out. Mr. Wilkinson said that in opening his case that it was narrowed down to the question whether the agreement could stand or not, so I could not stand in law then, even if the plaintiff falls utterly. Here is the contract agreement signed by the parties, most important, and whether I was right or not, I cannot say, but I matter for discussion, because it is a matter for the jury to determine, and not for the judge to decide. Now Mr. Wilkinson

